

The Higher Education Attainment Problem

Based on the best available data, for every **100** kids entering ninth grade in Cleveland ... **63** will graduate high school, **34** of those graduates will go to college, and **7** will graduate from college in six years.

Why is college important?

Higher educational attainment — earning a two- or four-year college degree — has never been more critical to the success of our citizens, our community, and our country. Nearly 60 percent of newly created jobs require some level of post-high school education.

- ♦ **Earning power.** A college graduate earns 1.8 times more than a high school graduate, worth more than \$1 million over a lifetime.
- ♦ **Quality of life.** People who get college degrees are more likely to have fulfilling jobs, better health, and longer lives. They are also less likely to be unemployed.
- ♦ **Economic strength.** In Northeast Ohio, a 1 percent increase in the number of people earning college degrees would boost our region's economic output by \$2.8 billion a year.
- ♦ **Strong cities and suburbs.** Higher education rates correlate to lower crime, expanded community amenities, and a more substantial tax base to pay for important city services such as police.

Compact Partners

The following organizations signed the Compact and agreed to develop action plans and work collaboratively to increase educational attainment in Cleveland.

Community Partners

America Scores
Broadway/Slavic Village P-16 Project
Business of Good Foundation
City of Cleveland
City Year
Cleveland Foundation
College Now Greater Cleveland
Cuyahoga County
Educational Services Center of Cuyahoga County
Esperanza Inc.
Facing History and Ourselves
Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

The George Gund Foundation
Greater Cleveland Partnership
Martha Holden Jennings Foundation
Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education
Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland
Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland
Third Federal Foundation
Urban League of Greater Cleveland
Youth Opportunities Unlimited

Educational Partners

Cleveland Metropolitan School District
Baldwin-Wallace College
Bowling Green State University
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland State University
Cuyahoga Community College
Hiram College
John Carroll University

Kent State University
Notre Dame College
Oberlin College
Ohio State University
Ohio University
University of Akron
University of Toledo
Ursuline College



HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT OF GREATER CLEVELAND



Our community's pledge to
help youth enroll in college and
graduate with a degree

What can I do?

To learn about how you can support the Compact, contact Corinne Webb, project manager, at 216.241.5587, ext. 147, or at cwebb@collegenowgc.org.

What is the Higher Education Compact?

In 2010, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson asked civic leaders, educators, and college and university presidents what our community could do to increase the number of youth attending and graduating from college.

While many organizations were attentive to the important issue of college attainment, including the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, student support organizations, and colleges and universities, Mayor Jackson’s aim was to align these organizations’ efforts in ways that would best use precious resources and increase the city’s number of college graduates. The result was the **Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland**.

The Compact is a promise — a written pledge — from these leaders to do what it takes to remove obstacles that prevent Cleveland youth from going to and succeeding in college.

The Compact will:

- ◆ Change Cleveland’s culture from one that tells youth “if you go to college” to one that says “when you go to college.”
- ◆ Improve performance at public high schools so that youth are better prepared for the rigors of college-level classes.
- ◆ Help parents navigate financial aid paperwork and scholarship opportunities.
- ◆ Expose youth to two- and four-year colleges and universities to find the perfect fit.
- ◆ Provide thoughtful advising on college campuses so that students don’t waste precious resources on classes they don’t need.
- ◆ Support students as they confront the day-to-day struggles of college coursework, jobs, and life on their own.
- ◆ Assist students to ensure they are prepared for sustainable careers in a rapidly changing and demanding global economy.

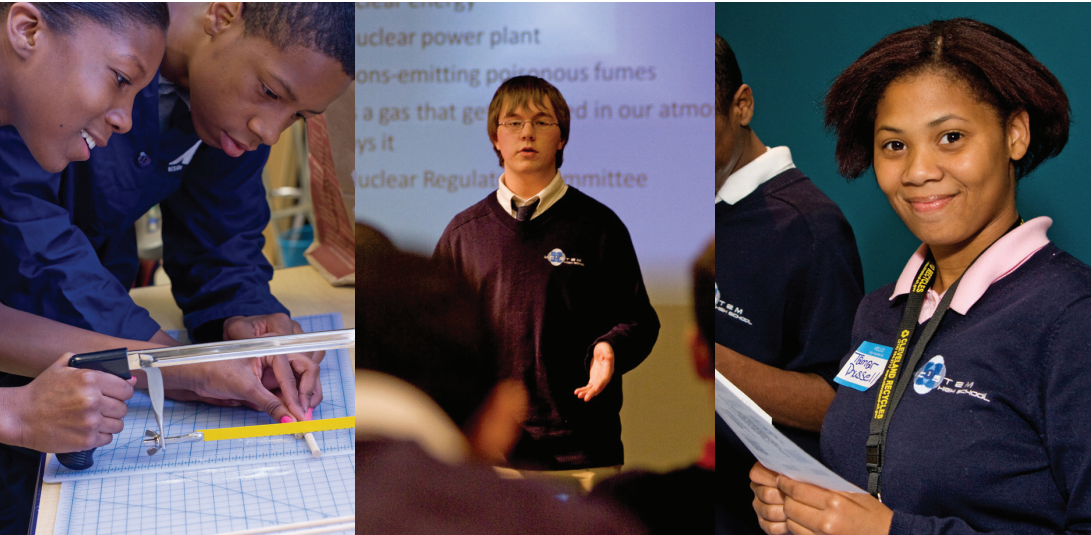
Why now?

In the city of Cleveland, just 6 percent of residents hold an associate degree and only 8 percent hold a bachelor’s degree.

While the number of Cleveland graduates going to college has increased over the past five years from 36 to 54 percent, most of those students don’t stay long enough to earn a degree. In 2009, one-third of Cleveland youth who enrolled in college did not return the following year.

Low degree attainment translates into high unemployment, low wages, a low tax base, and a high burden on the public sector.

Everyone wants better for our youth and our community.



Who is behind the Compact?

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson. Cuyahoga County. Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Fifteen Ohio colleges and universities. Foundations. Community organizations. College Now. In the past year, these organizations worked together to:

- ◆ Establish a communitywide effort — the Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland — to significantly increase the number of Cleveland students who earn degrees.
- ◆ Develop a “College Success Dashboard” that colleges, educators, civic leaders, and others in the community can use to annually track college readiness, college access, and college persistence.
- ◆ Explore how other communities are succeeding in efforts to get youth ready for and attending college.

What happens next?

Members of the Compact are:

- ◆ Working directly with students to ensure that they are ready for college, making the right college choices, and succeeding in college.
- ◆ Increasing community awareness about why going to college is so important.
- ◆ Gathering data to track the Compact’s progress and accomplishments.
- ◆ Planning a best practices symposium for 2012.
- ◆ Exploring the development of additional scholarship and financial aid programs.

College Success Dashboard

To measure and report progress, members of the Compact have prepared a baseline **College Success Dashboard**, an annual snapshot of student and community success and challenges. This will be reported annually starting in the fall of 2012.

The following data will be tracked annually to create the dashboard.

EDUCATION PIPELINE: MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

- % On-time High School Graduates
- % Graduates Enrolled in College Within 12 Months
- % Students Retained in College (1st Year to 2nd Year)
- % Students Completing Degree On Time

Readiness Indicators	Access Indicators	Persistence Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• % students passing core coursework with a “C” or better• % students participating in Advanced Placement Testing• % students earning 3, 4, or 5 on Advanced Placement Tests• % students with a 21 or higher on the ACT• % students graduating with a 3.0 GPA or higher• % high school graduates earning 6+ college credits• % high school graduates needing remediation in math or English	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• % students using Naviance Succeed Career and College Planning Software• Average number of times students take the ACT• % students completing at least one college application by Feb. 15• Average number of completed college applications per student (of those that completed one)• Approved FAFSA Completion Rates before Feb. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• % students completing remedial coursework within one year• % students persisting in college year 1 to year 2• Ratio of credits attempted to credits earned (year 1 to year 2 and cumulative)• % students transferring from 2-year to 4-year institutions• % students graduating (2-year & 4-year rates)• % students graduating (3-year & 6-year rates)